

Appln. No. 10/634,557
Amdt. Dated December 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 13, 2004

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

By the amendments presented, Claims 1 and 15 are rewritten to incorporate therein the molecular sieve-defining Markush group from Claims 2 and 16, respectively. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 16 are also rewritten so that they now recite only the preferred silicoaluminophosphate types of molecular sieves.

Further by the amendments presented, non-elected Claims 34-43 are canceled. Such claim cancellation is done without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue these canceled non-elected claims via one or more divisional applications.

Upon entry of the claim amendments presented, Claims 1-33 remain in the application. No additional claims fee is due as a result of the claim amendments made.

Invention Synopsis

The present invention as now claimed is directed to molecular sieve-containing catalyst compositions, and the preparation thereof, wherein such compositions comprise a silicoaluminophosphate- or aluminophosphate-type molecular sieve component, hydrotalcite and a rare earth metal component.

Restriction Requirement

The previously applied restriction requirement, after applicants' traversal, has now been made FINAL. Accordingly, non-elected Claims 20-34 have, as indicated, been canceled from the present application.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Claims 8-14 have been allowed, and Claims 2-5 and 16-19 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. With respect to the allowable claims, the subject matter of

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original Claim 2 has now been incorporated into Claim 1, and the subject matter of original Claim 16 has been incorporated into Claim 15, thereby converting independent Claims 1 and 15 into allowable claims. Claims dependent, either directly or indirectly, from these amended and hence now-allowable Claims 1 and 15 should likewise also be allowable.

Art Rejections

Original Claim 1 and certain claims dependent therefrom have been rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly being anticipated by EP-A-278,535. Original Claim 15 and certain claims dependent therefrom have been rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentably obvious over this same EP-A-278,535 in view of WO 01/38271. Amendment of Claims 1 and 15 herein to convert their subject matter into that of allowable original Claims 2 and 16 serves to obviate these art rejections of Claims 1 and 15 and all claims now dependent therefrom.

Conclusions

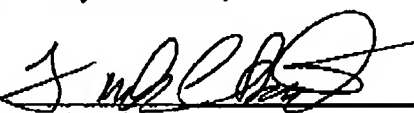
Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to clarify the scope and presentation of the allowable subject matter claimed in the present application. WHEREFORE, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented, withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103, and allowance of amended Claims 1-33 are respectfully requested.

Any comments or questions concerning the application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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Appln. No. 10/634,557
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